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Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b> (to be used for all correspondence during pendency of filed application)	Application Number	09/648,660	
	Filing Date	August 25, 2000	
	First Named Inventor	Peter Callas	
	Group Art Unit Number	3731	
	Examiner Name	Unknown	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	5*	Attorney Docket Number	4926

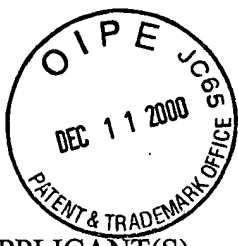
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SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OR AGENT			
Signature:	Deepti Panchawagh-Jain		
Attorney/Reg. No.:	Deepti Panchawagh-Jain/43,846	Dated:	December 5, 2000

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IN THE UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S): Peter Callas, John Lunsford, Albert Chin and Michael W  
APPLICATION NO.: 09/648,660  
FILING DATE: August 25, 2000  
TITLE: ENDOSCOPIC SURGICAL ACCESS PORT AND METHOD  
EXAMINER: Unknown  
GROUP ART UNIT: 3731  
ATTY. DKT. NO.: 4926

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Dated: December 5, 2000

By: Deepti Panchawagh-Jain  
Deepti Panchawagh-Jain, Reg. No.: 43,846

DIRECTOR FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20231

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**Under 37 CFR §§ 1.56 and 1.97-98**

SIR:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR §§ 1.56 and 1.97-98, enclosed herewith is modified form PTO-1449 listing references for consideration by the Examiner. A copy is enclosed herewith of each listed reference which may be material to the examination of this application, and with respect to which there may be a duty to disclose.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation regarding the completeness of the list of references, or that inclusion of a reference in this list is an admission that it is prior art or is pertinent to this application, or that a search has been made, or as an admission that the information listed is, or may be considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists, and shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner.

- ☐ This application relies, under 35 U.S.C. § 120, on the earlier filing date of prior application Serial No. [SERIAL NUMBER], filed on [FILING DATE], and the

references cited therein are hereby referenced, but are not required to be provided in this application under 37 CFR § 1.98(d).

The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed:

- ☒ within three months of the filing date of the application, or date of entry into the national stage of an international application, or before the mailing date of a first official action on the merits, whichever event last occurred; OR
- ☐ before the mailing of a first official action after the filing of a request for continued examination (RCE) under 37 CFR § 1.114;
- ☐ after three months of the filing date of this national application or the date of entry of the national stage in an international application, or after the mailing date of the first official action on the merits, whichever event last occurred, but before the mailing date of the first to occur of either:
  - (1) a final action under 37 CFR §1.113; OR
  - (2) a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.311; AND
- ☐ attached hereto is the fee of \$180, as set forth under 37 CFR §1.17(p), for submission of this Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR. § 1.97(c); OR
- ☐ Applicant certifies pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.97(e) that:
  - ☐ each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement; OR
  - ☐ no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the person signing this certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated under 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.
- OR
- ☐ before the payment of the issue fee but after the mailing date of the first to occur of either:
  - [1] a final action under 37 CFR § 1.113; OR

- [2] a notice of allowance under 37 CFR § 1.311; AND  
in accordance with the requirements of 37 CFR § 1.97(d):
- ☐ Applicant certifies pursuant to 37 CFR. § 1.97(e) that:
- ☐ each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement; OR
- ☐ no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the person signing this certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated under 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement; AND
- ☐ Applicant hereby respectfully petitions for the consideration of the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(d)(2); AND
- ☐ Applicant submits the petition fee of \$180 as set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(p).

☒ Applicant submits that no fee is required for the consideration of the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement.

Consideration of the listed references and favorable action are solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
PETER CALLAS ET AL.

Dated: December 5, 2000

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